

TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2003/09/30 : CIA-RDP71B00508R000100050027-3

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21 September 1965

FROM: Director of Central Intelligence

TO Addressees

1. The Director of Central Intelligence is responsible for providing direction and leadership to the National Reconnaissance Program, both as a member of the Executive Committee of the National Reconnaissance Program, and as the Director of Central Intelligence. Coordinated staff support of the Director by various activities in the Central Intelligence Agency is essential to the fulfillment of these responsibilities. The staff nature of this support is emphasized since only the Director has direct responsibilities for the tasks delineated in this memorandum.

2. I am requesting staff assistance from individuals who have responsibilities in USIB committees and similar functions which bear a relationship to the NRP to most effectively and efficiently utilize our personnel and simplify the effort. Although the staff support required cannot be completely provided by those now engaged in NRP associated work, it is expected that this dual staff and line responsibility will generally preclude duplication

NRO review(s)

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TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2003/09/30 : CIA-RDP71B00508R000100050027-3

-2-

of effort and assure efficient operation.

3. As a member of the Executive Committee, I will participate in the formulation of NRP programs and provide policy guidance. This basic responsibility necessarily encompasses the fundamental areas common to major programs, i. e. ,

The development of requirements and the assessment of their importance and priorities.

The conduct of studies, research, and exploratory development required to determine the best technological solution for the requirements.

The judgment of which programs should proceed into production, and the rate at which they should proceed.

The assignment of responsibility for operational activities.

The continuing assessment of all areas of the program in terms of effectiveness and efficiency.

The structure of the NRP requires, in addition, the careful selection and assignment of responsibilities to that organization, agency and department which can most effectively perform the tasks for various parts of the program.

Approved For Release 2003/09/30 : **TOP SECRET** CIA-RDP71B00508R000100050027-3

-3-

25X1 4. The unique position of overhead reconnaissance in intelligence collection requires that this program be given the best efforts and attention of the Central Intelligence Agency. Wholehearted cooperation will be required and expected to achieve this. Recognizing the major NRP activities now carried in the DD/S&T, I am assigning over-all coordinating responsibility to the DD/S&T, and will consider him the action officer for staff assistance in the NRP. [REDACTED], who is Chairman of COMOR, will be responsible under this arrangement to assist and advise in those areas concerned with the needs and requirements for overhead reconnaissance. NIPE and BPAM will have major participation in assessing budget requirements, program performance and other tasks which can be performed best by these organizations. Although the NRO Agreement of August 1965 does not specifically deal with photo processing or interpretation, I have asked [REDACTED] to work closely with NPIC in relating the reconnaissance requirements, not only to the NRO collection capability, but also to the exploitation capabilities of the community, and will expect this factor to be included in the staff support.

25X1 5. The current NRO Agreement is somewhat repetitive and overlapping in the assignment of responsibilities to the Director of Central Intelligence and the NRP Executive Committee. However,

TOP SECRET

-4-

to clarify and support the implementation of the new NRO Agreement, the following specific responsibilities are identified and their assignment indicated:

- a. The NRO is responsive directly and solely to intelligence collection requirements and priorities established by USIB, and USIB is further responsible for targeting requirements and priorities and desired frequency of coverage. The Director of Central Intelligence, however, establishes the priorities and requirements for targeting of NRP operations and their frequency of coverage. The Chairman of the Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance coordinates reconnaissance requirements with collection capabilities under DCID 2/7, and [] will provide support for the DCI consistent with the DCI responsibilities specified above.

- b. The Office of Security [] will provide support for the DCI in developing security policy guidance for the NRO to maintain a uniform system in the whole NRP area.

- c. The DD/S&T will provide general staff support to the DCI for the NRP as previously indicated and

(1) With the assistance of NIPE and BPAM

(a) Recommend an appropriate level of effort

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TOP SECRET

-5-

for the NRP in response to the USIB requirements, considering technical capabilities and fiscal limitations.

- (b) Review the results obtained by the NRP and recommend, if appropriate, steps for improving such results.
 - (c) Review and recommend changes or approval of the NRP budget each year.
 - (d) Recommend the allocation of development responsibilities and the corresponding funds for specific reconnaissance programs.
 - (e) Periodically review the essential features of major program elements of the NRP.
- (2) Provide timely support and recommendations for
- (a) The allocation of responsibility and corresponding funds for research and exploratory development for new systems.
 - (b) Assignment of operational responsibility for various types of manned overflight missions.
 - (c) Guidelines for collaboration between departments and for mutual support where appropriate.

6. These assignments are consistent with the responsibilities

TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2003/09/30 : CIA-RDP71B00508R000100050027-3

-6-

now extant, i. e. , establishment of needs by COMOR, determination and development of capabilities and operational responsibility by DD/S&T, program and financial review by NIPE and BPAM, and security policy by the Office of Security. The objective of the delineation is to clarify and specifically assign work which will result in more effective and efficient participation by the Director of Central Intelligence and Central Intelligence Agency in the NRP. Your assistance in the performance of these difficult tasks will be appreciated.

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TOP SECRET